



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 11, 2007

S. 223

Senate Campaign Disclosure Parity Act

As reported by the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration on March 28, 2007

S. 223 would amend the Federal Election Campaign Act to require electronic filing of Senate campaign reports that are submitted to the Secretary of the Senate and filed with the Federal Election Commission, beginning on January 1, 2008. Subject to the availability of appropriated funds, CBO estimates that implementing S. 223 would cost less than \$500,000 a year.

S. 223 also could affect federal revenue by increasing the collection of fines and penalties from violations of campaign finance laws. Such collections are recorded in the budget as revenues. However, CBO estimates that any additional collections of penalties and fines resulting from this legislation would not be significant.

S. 223 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 223 would impose a private-sector mandate, as defined in UMRA, on candidates for the office of United States Senator, the principal campaign committees of such candidates, the Republican and Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committees, and any other political organization that only supports U.S. senatorial candidates. The bill would require those entities to file certain designations, statements, and reports electronically with the Secretary of the Senate beginning on January 1, 2008. Senatorial candidates and their political organizations must file the same forms under current law. CBO estimates that the incremental cost to file the forms electronically would be minimal, if any, and well below the annual threshold established by UMRA (\$131 million in 2007, adjusted annually for inflation).

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Matthew Pickford (for federal costs) and Paige Piper/Bach (for the private-sector impact). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.